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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

PUBLIC ORDER THREAT ASSESSMENT

EVENT: *ATLANTIC CANADA HOLDS THE LINE BORDER SHUT DOWN*

DATE & LOCATIONS: JANUARY 29TH

- **AULAC BIG STOP, 1300HRS (MEETING POINT)**

PURPOSE: To publically demonstrate in solidarity with national convoys travelling from various provinces across Canada to Ottawa, Parliament Hill for a January 29th demonstration against recent Federal Government vaccination requirements for commercial truckers coming into Canada.

BACKGROUND: Recent announcements from the Federal government requiring commercial truckers entering Canada to have proof of vaccination and requiring quarantine for those who do not, has caused a backlash across Canada resulting in plans for various public order events, including in Nova Scotia.

KEY FINDINGS:

- The current poster posted on Jan 26th calls for a "border shut down" with a related post by one of the organizers describing it as a "24 hour blockade".
- Contradicting the above call out, another organizer in touch with police, is not forthcoming with information and has suggested the event will be a short stop over.
- Sentiment, general discussion and details online specific to the Aulac Jan 29th event is limited.

OVERALL THREAT LEVEL RATED AT MEDIUM: There is information that suggests the possibility for conflict that will impact the region. Locally, the regular flow of business, energy and resources will most likely be interrupted, to some degree, for a period of time. The duration of the event is expected to be long enough to impact local and regional populations economically and logistically. Multiple individuals or groups who are involved in the event may have a history of violence and disruptive activity. Attempts to mitigate through engagement with leaders have been limited with organizers unwilling to describe their intentions for blockade.

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Canada

THREAT LEVEL			
Negligible	Low	Medium	High

Assessment:

There are calls for an unlawful blockade of critical infrastructure. The demonstration poster, updated and posted Jan 26th, calls out for a "border shut down" and for attendees to "hold the line" and not budge or surrender. Commentary from one of the Facebook organizers, Patricia EVERY under this poster describes it as a "24 hour blockade". At the time of this report the Facebook event was showing 88 'going' and another 305 'interested'.

Contact between lead trucker Daniel CHIASSON and police have been minimal as of the publication of this report and non-committal on whether there is a plan to block the highway or not. Indicators from these conversations suggest it will be a short event with no mention of 24 hr duration, which contradicts the call out poster online. The organizers are different from the ones who have been involved with Jan 27 rallies who encouraged lawful, respectful action. At least one of the organizers has a history of mischief-obstruct enjoyment of property, traffic and assault charges/subject of complaint occurrences in the past 5 years. No history of unlawful action at a demonstration was found.

Negative ideological sentiment is high in the context of the national movement. Calls from groups with anti-authority, anti-government and Covid conspiracy views have pushed for a variety of unlawful actions in Ottawa for Jan 29th. These include calls for an insurrection style event as seen on Jan 6th, 2021 at the United States Capital Building and by issuing threats to government officials and damage to property. These types of sentiments have not yet been observed for the Aulac event Jan 29th.

No counter protest plans have been noted.

A significant weather event is planned for the full day calling for snow, freezing rain and high winds which is likely to mitigate attendance but heighten the potential for traffic accidents.

Gatherings at related events today (Jan 27th) have been as high as a few hundred, crowding highway overpasses and gathering at highway roadside.

Caveat: Threat level may change as intelligence gaps are filled

INTELLIGENCE GAPS:

1. Since the shutdown from Facebook of one of the main convoy sites this week, a number of private Facebook groups relating to Jan 29th have surfaced. Tier 3 access to these sites

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have not been granted and therefore content not able to be reviewed for this assessment.

2. Limited interaction with and information from organizers.
3. Online chatter is focused on today's convoy in NS and the greater movement. Conversations specific to Jan 29th in Aulac are minimal and may be moved onto closed private Facebook groups now appearing.

THREAT LEVEL MATRIX

PRIMARY CATEGORIES OF IMPACT					
	Economic	Critical Infrastructure	Cultural/Historical Significance	VIPs/ Dignitaries/ IPPs	Political/Ideological Significance
HIGH					
MEDIUM					
LOW					
NEGLIGIBLE					

THREAT INTENSIFIERS / MITIGATORS										
Score	Attendance	Duration	Geography	Weather	Protest Leadership Engagement with Law Enforcement	Media/ Social Media Interest	Use of Illegal Tactics and/or Violence	Access to Fire/ EMS/ Military/ Hospitals etc.	Existing Security Precautions	Counter-Protesters
8 to 10										
4 to 7										
0 to 3										

DISSEMINATION: RCMP; Law enforcement community; intelligence community.

SOURCES: RCMP Sit-Reps and internal communications; select open sources; police and provincial information databases. Specific source available on request.

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